

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CU-04 HEW-08

IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /112 W
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R 291555 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3242
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL POZNAN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: STUDENT CONGRESS ENDS

REF: WARSAW 1437

1. SUMMARY: THE CONGRESS OF POLISH STUDENTS ENDED ITS THREE- DAY SESSION MARCH 28, HAVING FULFILLED ITS DUTY OF CREATING A NEW, UNIFIED, IDEOLOGICAL- POLITICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION. FROM FIRST TO LAST THE CONGRESS WAS IMPRESSIVELY ORGANIZED TO SPEED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIME- BACKED PROPOSAL AND PRECLUDE ANY POSSIBILITY OF ORGANIZED OPPOSITION. HOWEVER, LEADERS OF THE NEW GROUP-- TO BE CALLED THE SOCIALIST UNION OF POLISH STUDENTS (SZSP)-- NOW FACE THE TASK OF PERSUADING STUDENTS TO JOIN. END SUMMARY

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2. THE CONGRESS OF POLISH STUDENTS ENDED ITS THREE- DAY SESSION MARCH 28. AS THE PARTY PRESS HAD ANNOUNCED IT WOULD, THE CONGRESS DECIDED TO CREATE A UNIFIED, IDEOLOGICAL-POLITICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION TO REPLACE THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH STUDENTS (ZSP), AND THE UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH (ZMS) AND SOCIALIST RURAL YOUTH UNION (SZMW).

3. THE SMOOTH ORGANIZATION WHICH ENBALE CONGRESS ORGANIZERS TO DISPOSE OF THE ZSP CONGRESS IN BARELY THREE HOURS MARCH 26 (REFTEL) CONTINUED TO BE IN EVIDENCE AT THE STUDENTS' CONGRESS. ON THE CONGRESS' S FIRST FULL DAY, MARCH 27 (FOLLOWING A SHORT SESSION THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON), THE DECISION TO CREATE THE NEW STUDENT GROUP WAS OFFICIALLY MADE. THERE WAS APPARENTLY LITTLE PRIOR DISCUSSION. ACCORDING TO TRYBUNA LUDU, THE DELEGATES EXPRESSED THEIR APPROVAL FOR THE NEW ORGANIZATION BY MEANS OF " WARM APPLAUSE"-- INDICATING THAT NO FORMAL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THEREAFTER , THE NEW ORGANIZATION HAVING BECOME A FAIT ACCOMPLI, THE CONGRESS DEVOTED ITSELF TO STRUCTURAL DETAILS.

4. PREDICTABLY, THE NEW ORGANIZATIONS' STRUCTURE FOLLOWS THE PATTERN OF THE PZPR. CONGRESSES WILL MEET AT FOUR-YEAR INTERVALS AND ELECT A MAIN BOARD WHICH WILL, IN TURN, ELECT ITS CHAIRMAN AND OTHER OFFICERS. MUCH THE SAME PROCESS WILL OCCUR ON THE UNIVERSITY AND DISTRICT (WOJEWODSTWO) LEVEL. ALL STUDENST AND ACADEMIC PERSONNEL AT POLISH HIGHER SCHOOLS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP, BUT MEMBERSHIP WILL NOT BE MANDATORY. SOMEWHAT IRONICALLY IN VIEW OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONGRESS ITSELF, MUCH WAS MADE IN CONGRESS DOCUMENTS OF THE NEED FOR " OPENNESS AND DEMOCRACY" IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE SZSP.

5. THE FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE SZSP IS EUGENIUSZ MIELCAREK, UNTIL LAST MONDAY A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NOW- DEFUNCT ZSP AND HEAD OF ITS CULTURAL COMMITTEE. HE WILL BE ASSISTED BY THREE VICE CHAIRMEN (ONE EACH FROM THE ZSP, ZMS, AND SZMW). (BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE NEW SZSP LEADERS WILL BE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT).

6. A SIGN OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE LEADERSHIP ATTRIBUTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE CONGRESS WAS THE PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE THREE DAYS

OF CC SECRETARY AND POLITBURO MEMBER SZLACHCIC AND FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI (THE LATTER AN OLD- TIME YOUTH ACTIVIST). SZLACHCIC' S SPEECH ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CONGRESS PUT THE REGIME STAMP OF APPROVAL ON WHAT THE DELEGATES HAD WROUGHT.

7 . COMMENT: BESIDES UNITY AND IDEOLOGICAL STRENGTH THE MOST DOMINANT THEME OF THE CONGRESS WAS THAT OF STUDENT " SELF- GOVERNMENT" OR " PARTNERSHIP" IN UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION. WHETHER THIS WAS MERELY SUGAR COATING FOR AN OTHERWISE BITTER PILL REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

8. WITH THE SZSP FULLY OPERATIONAL, ITS LEADERS (AND THE REGIME) ARE FACED WITH THE TASK OF PERSUADING STUDENTS TO JOIN. WE HAVE LATELY HEARD INDICATIONS THAT SOME STUDENTS PLAN TO SHUN THE NEW GROUP AS A DEMONSTRATION OF OPPOSITION BOTH TO THE IDEA OF AN " IDEOLOGICAL- POLITICAL" STUDENT GROUP AND TO THE STRONG- ARM METHODS USED TO PUT THAT IDEA INTO EFFECT. PRESSURES TO JOIN, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERABLE. SZSP SPONSORED FOREIGN TRIPS, BOOK DISCOUNTS, AND CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO THE UNINITIATED. NOR ARE NON- MEMBERS LIKELY TO BE TREATED EQUALLY IN THE CRUCIAL MATTERS OF APARTMENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS. GIVEN THE PREVAILING MOOD OF APATHY AMONG STUDENTS, THESE FACTORS WILL PROBABLY BE SUFFICIENT TO PERSUADE THE VAST MAJORITY TO BECOME SZSP MEMBERS.

9. IN GENERAL, WE WOULD GUESS THAT THE REGIME IS WELL SATISFIED THAT THE STUDENT GROUP UNIFICATION PLAN HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED.
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